

REMARKS

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the forgoing amendments and the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

Prior to this Amendment, claims 1-8 were pending. By the Amendment, claims 1, 5 and 7 are amended. Claims 6 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claim 9 is newly added. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-5, 7 and 9 will remain pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Saito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,747,823). Claims 6 and 8 have been canceled and, thus, the rejection of claims 6 and 8 have been rendered moot. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection of claims 1-2 and 4-5 and, therefore, respectfully traverses the same.

Claims 1-2 and 4-5 are patentable over the AAPA and the reference applied because, claim 1 (and claims 2 and 4-5 depend therefrom) has, among other features, a feature of a disk recording medium provided with a guard band (a non-recording region) which is provided between tracks (data recording regions), and which is kept in an AC magnetized state or in a random magnetized state.

AAPA does not disclose a feature of a disk recording medium provided with a guard band (a non-recording region) which is provided between tracks (data recording regions), and which is kept in an AC magnetized state or in a random magnetized state.

Saito et al. states, "In the initial magnetization process as described with reference to FIGS. 17(a) and 17(b), the conventional method which magnetizes the magnetic recording disc 2 in one direction (the DC demagnetization method) is replaced by the AC demagnetization method according to the invention." (col. 8, lines 49-54). Saito et al. discloses that the initial magnetization process is done by the AC demagnetization method. However, Saito et al. does not discuss a feature of a disk recording medium provided with a guard band (a non-recording region) which is provided between tracks (data recording regions), and which is kept in an AC magnetized state or in a random magnetized state.

Neither the AAPA nor Saito et al. teaches or suggests the feature and, as a result, cannot be used either alone or in combination with one another to render

Application of TAKEO - Serial No. 10/059,159 - Atty. Dkt. 008312/0290677

claims 1-2 and 4-5 unpatentable. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and pass this application quickly to issuance.

In the Office Action, claims 3 and 7 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in this application. At this time, in view of the remarks presented herein, the Applicant chooses not to amend the claim 3 but reserve the right to do so at a future date. Claim 3 depends on claim 1 and recites further limitations. Thus, claim 3 is also allowable at least due to the dependency of claim 1.

Applicant has rewritten claim 7 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, claim 7 is also allowable.

Claim 9 recites a non-recording region provided between the tracks recorded in the AC magnetized pattern at a high frequency or in the random magnetized pattern. As discussed above, the combination of Saito et al. and AAPA fails to disclose or suggest this feature.


In view of the forgoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-3, 7 and 9 are patentable over the AAPA and Saito et al. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and objection of the claims and pass this application quickly to issue.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are not otherwise accounted for, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-3975 and refer to Order No. 008312/0290677.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

Date: November 23, 2004


Jeffrey D. Karceski
Reg. No. 35,914
Tel. No. (703) 905-2110
John P. Darling
Reg. No. 44482
Tel. No. (703) 905-2045
Fax No. (703) 905-2500

P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102